



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fall Forest Fire Hazard Season Officially Over** *Kentucky's Fall Wildland Fire Season Ended Dec. 15*

**Frankfort, Ky. (Dec. 16, 2013)** – Kentucky's fall forest fire hazard season has officially ended. The restriction on burning times is no longer in place until the start of the spring fire season Feb. 15, 2014. The Division of Forestry, however, continues to encourage everyone to be vigilant when burning or building fires in the open.

People are still responsible for results of any of their burning and must always take proper precautions. All Division for Air Quality and Division of Waste Management regulations still apply, as well as any local restrictions.

"Although recent precipitation has decreased the number of forest fires, it only takes a few sunny, dry days to create conditions favorable for fires," said Leah MacSwords, director of the Division of Forestry.

Since Jan. 1, 2013, KDF has suppressed 948 wildland fires that have burned 22,821 acres across the state. Forestry officials reported the following causes for this year's wildfires: 679 arson fires, 155 debris fires and 114 fires from a variety of other causes. The spring rains and cooler fall temperatures have likely contributed to lower fire numbers for this year.

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